



Hurricane Harvey 2017
9/8/2017 – 1700 CDT Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Texas Governor Greg Abbott is traveling to Victoria and Houston today, September 8, 2017, and Beaumont on Saturday. He will be accompanied by EPA Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman today and Senior Advisor to the Administrator Kell Kelly on Saturday.
- Aerial application for vector control is scheduled to begin the night of September 9, 2017.
- TCEQ has the authority to waive certain requirements to allow open burning of woody debris from Hurricane Harvey aftermath. The State can approve open burning of debris, consistent with guidance provided by the TCEQ. The EPA has reviewed the emergency hurricane debris management guidance on the TCEQ website and concurs with its use. EPA has recommended the State consider particulate monitoring (PM10) in areas of temporary debris management sites, where practicable, to capture PM10 associated with burning activities.
- TCEQ has invited EPA and Harris County Pollution Control Agency to participate in a Hurricane Harvey Update for environmental advocacy organizations including Environmental Integrity Project, Sierra Club, Public Citizen, Environmental Defense Fund, and Air Alliance Houston early next week in Austin, Texas.
- EPA released data generated from the sampling of flood water and ambient air during the Arkema fires. No detections were above levels of concern outside the 1.5-mile evacuation area. EPA/TCEQ/City of Houston also released TAGA air monitoring data from the Manchester neighborhood in Houston. Air monitoring results indicate no chemical concentration above the state selected screening levels. EPA continues to investigate complaints in the area.
- Today, the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) wrote the City of Houston and agreed to be flexible in resuming and completing the negotiations with the city related to their Clean Water Act sanitary sewer violations.

- EPA has determined that most of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requests for flexibility in allowances and procedural changes to the State Revolving Loan Fund program so funds can be used to address immediate recovery and future resiliency efforts is acceptable. EPA will respond with a letter following Monday's scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

No afternoon update at this time.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee submitted a request for information on Arkema, their Risk Management Plan and inspection history. EPA is compiling a response to the request.

20 Community Liaisons have been deployed and will be directed to strategic locations within impacted counties. The Community Liaisons will distribute information to assist citizens with common environmental and health issues they might face following a flood.

Water sampling kits will be assembled by lab personnel once the materials arrive in Houston. The Community Liaison network will then distribute kits in counties with private residential wells. Testing will be provided to citizens free of charge and will provide screening results on bacterial contamination.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry – Region 6 activated the Texas Poison Control Center Network (six call centers) to address chemical and toxic exposure questions from the public. A daily situation report is produced through the collaboration of multi-state and federal environmental and health agencies and is shared by the Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center Network also provides direct patient assistance by communicating free medical advice to those exposed to oil, gas, peroxides, benzene or other health concerns.

DEBRIS RECOVERY

EPA currently has no mission assignment for debris recovery operations.

AIR MONITORING

The TAGA is not operational today due to a technical malfunction. Personnel are working to make repairs. Air monitoring in southeast Houston near multiple chemical facilities is ongoing by EPA using hand-held equipment.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Hazard Evaluations/Recovery				
Status	Opened		Closed	
	9/6/2017	Number of Targets Remaining Open	9/6/2017	Cumulative
Corpus Christi Branch	2	32	4	73
Houston Branch	29	193	4	28
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	15	34	1	4
NRC Reports	0	3	0	0
TOTALS	46	262	9	105
Note: Open means the target is yet to be recovered. Closed means the target was recovered/left in place or access was denied to collect the item.				

Daily/Cumulative Summary of Spills/Discharges				
Status	Opened		Closed	
	9/6/2017	Cumulative	9/6/2017	Cumulative
Corpus Christi Branch	34	425	30	99
Houston Branch	8	59	2	14
Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch	1	11	10	10
NRC Reports	53	82	3	20
TOTALS	96	577	45	143

FIELD RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

CORPUS CHRISTI BRANCH:

ASPECT has been requested by Operations to fly priority target areas identified by the Monitoring Division of Texas Commission for Environmental Quality. These priority targets will be flown September 8th. ASPECT information will be evaluated by the Dallas Environmental Unit following standard procedures.

Oversight of fuel transfer of the Signet Enterprise continued, with a total of 74,000 gallons being transferred to date. All remaining petrochemical products (lube oil, hydraulic oil) are in the process of being removed from the Signet Enterprise.

The Corpus Christi Branch added one water and one land team to their Hazard Evaluation group in order to evaluate the remaining three targets identified during previous Hazard Evaluation Mobilizations.

Oil Discharge Response Teams coordinate and monitor Responsible Party led operations in Island Moorings, Rattle Snake Point, Holiday Beach, Ingleside, Seadrift, Harbor of Refuge and respond to NRC and CHEMTEL Reports as appropriate and initiate recovery actions as needed.

EPA continues activities at the Staging Pad to receive, process, categorize, bulk, and dispose of hazardous materials.

	CONTAINERS			Cylinders	TOTAL
	Drums [55 gals]	Large Containers [<55 gals]	Large Containers [>55 gals]		
9/7/2017	1	0	1	3	5
Total to date	51	35	7	10	106

HOUSTON BRANCH:

The number of Hazard Evaluation Teams was reduced from 26 to 24.

The number of Water Infrastructure Assessment Groups was reduced from 11 to 10. The Group continues to conduct site assessments at drinking water facilities. The Group prioritizes facilities and determines the overall operational status of the facilities through an on-site evaluation.

EPA's ASPECT conducted assessments over the Valero Houston Refinery and continues to fly in Austin, Fort Bend counties with a list of special state given targets (roughly 28) of RMP and water infrastructure facility targets. Aerial recon continues in Lee, Bastrop and Fayette Counties to assess orphan containers and oil discharge targets as water continues to recede. Emergency Orphan Container recovery is assigned as targets are found and logged.

The Hazard Assessment Group has completed assessment in Fort Bend Wharton, Matagorda, Brazoria Counties. The Group will continue assessing Galveston and Harris Counties. The Group will continue the evaluation of targets, monitor recovery operations and respond to any reports of active pollution discharges.

The Oil Discharge Assessment Group is conducting facility site visits to verify cleanup efforts at specified targets.

A new container recovery pad is being constructed at 2200 Dorsett Street in Houston, including vegetation removal and construction of containment areas.

PORT ARTHUR/BEAUMONT BRANCH:

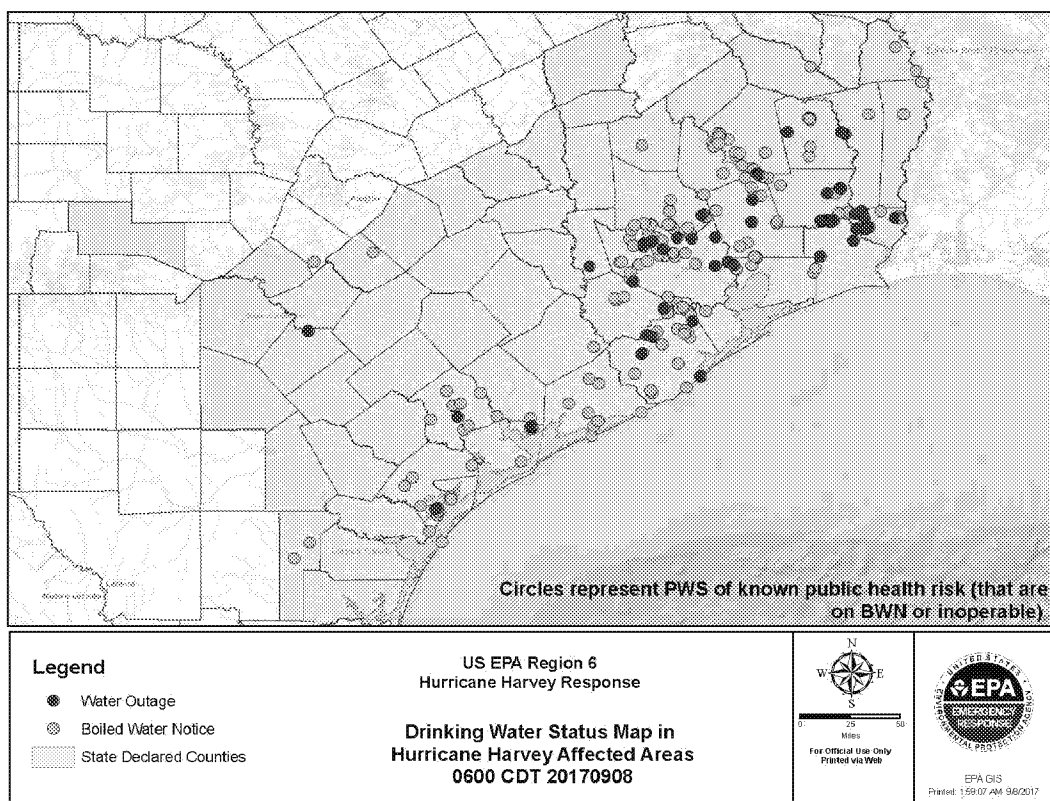
The Port Arthur/Beaumont Branch has added a Hazard Evaluation/Recovery Team to be available on standby, as needed, as floodwaters recede. Hazard and Waterway assessments are being conducted with the TGLO and the TCEQ.

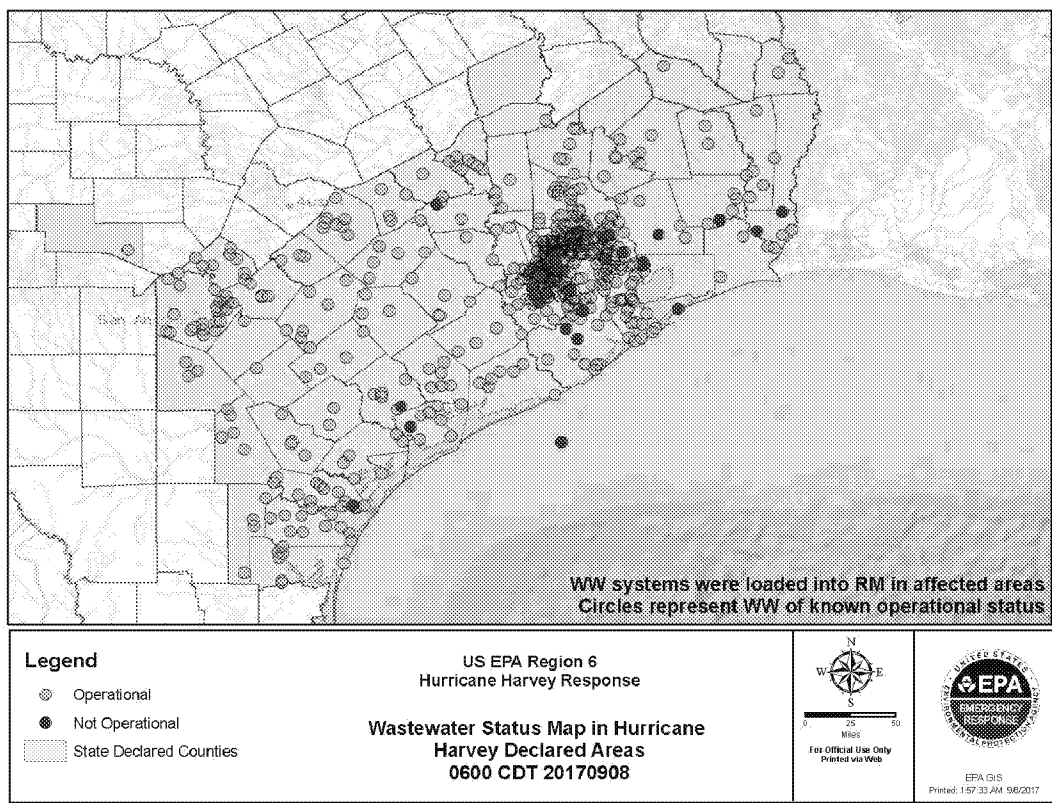
A Drinking Water Technical Support Team was deployed to provide technical support to City of Beaumont Water System.

DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER ASSESSMENTS

EPA is providing support to TCEQ for drinking water and wastewater system assessments. EPA staff working the Austin Phone Bank have demobilized. In addition, drinking water and wastewater assessment teams are currently established in Houston. Current Houston response activities consist of 16 EPA personnel conducting drinking water and wastewater assessments in the Harris County area.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Assessments (September 7, 2017)		
Assessment Types	Daily Assessments	Total Assessments
On-Site DW Assessments	80	256
On-Site WW Assessments	47	181
Phone DW Assessments	253	4852
Phone WW Assessments	111	2908

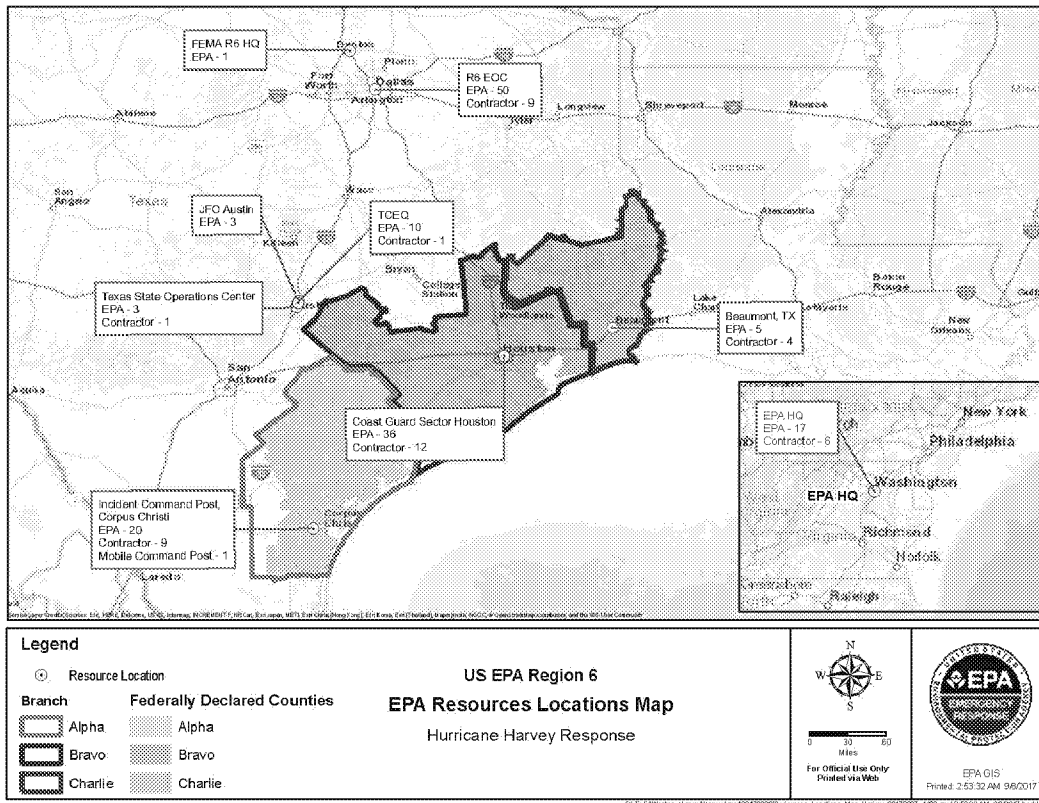




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EPA RESOURCES

Personnel	EPA Dallas, TX	FEMA Denton, TX	Texas JFO Austin, TX	Texas SOC Austin, TX	TCEQ Austin, TX	Houston, TX	Corpus Christi, TX	Beaumont, TX	HQ EOC, Wash, DC	TOTAL
EPA	50	1	3	3	10	36	21	5	17	146
START	9			1	1	12	9	4		36
ERRS						4	9	3		16
Other Contractors	1								6	7
TOTAL	60	1	3	4	11	52	39	12	23	198



FUNDING

SitRep						
September 8, 2017, UPDATED 1300 hours						
Funding Sources	Funding Ceiling	Funding Ceiling Less Indirect	Spent to Date	Remaining Balance	Daily Burn Rate	Days Remaining
Non Mission Assignment	N/A		\$64,200.00	\$0.00		
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-01	\$275,000.00	\$242,741.00	\$24,816.00	\$217,925.00	\$2,848.00	76.52
MA 4332DR-TX-EPA-03	\$8,592,000.00	\$7,584,077.00	\$5,248,884.21	\$2,335,192.79	\$282,745.51	8.26
Totals:	\$8,867,000.00	\$7,826,818.00	\$5,337,900.21	\$2,553,117.79		

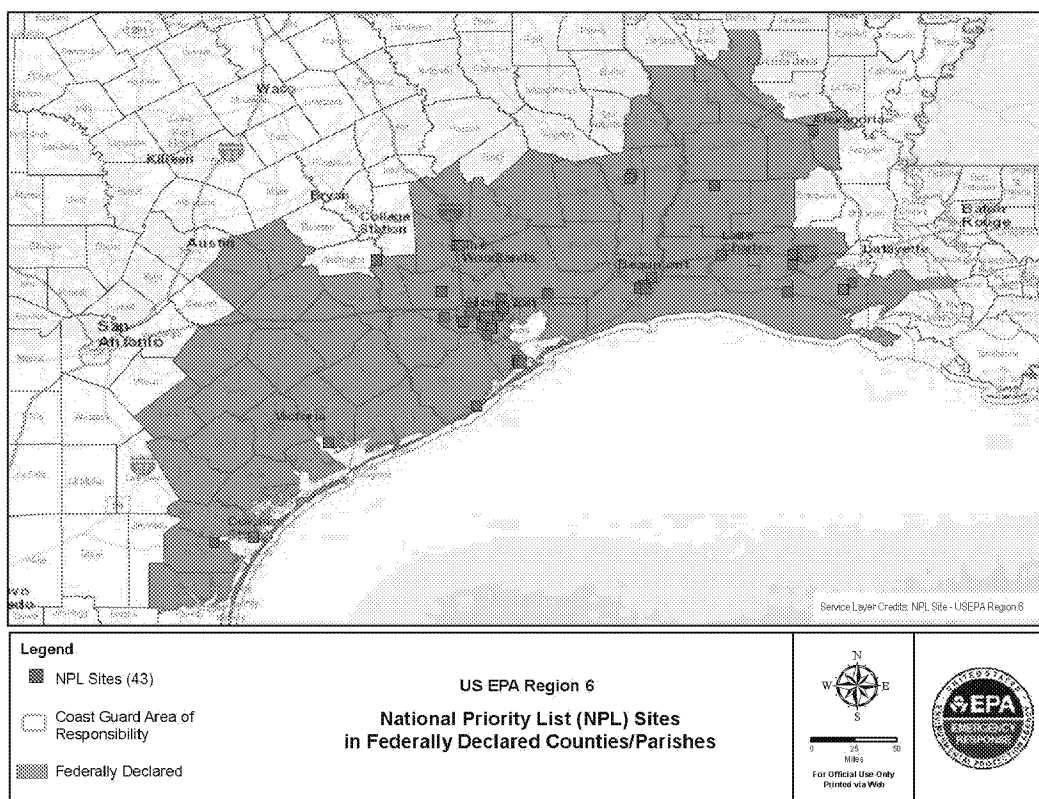
** Indirect costs represent the money the Cincinnati Shared Service Center takes off the top to manage the Mission Assignments

REFINERIES/FUEL WAIVERS

- EPA has extended the current multi-state fuel waiver to September 26th.
- EPA has granted all open fuel waivers requested to date.
- EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas Related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.
- The Internal Revenue Service expanded the red dye fuel waiver to cover the entire state of Texas, not just the 110 counties as before.

FEDERAL SUPERFUND NPL SITES

- All 43 Federal Superfund NPL Sites in the affected area have been assessed. Of these, 41 sites have been cleared, and two sites (San Jacinto Pits and US Oil Recovery) require additional follow-up.
 - U.S. Oil Recovery Update: On, September 7, 2017, a total of 16 vacuum truckloads of water (approximately 80,000 gallons) were removed and shipped offsite for disposal. The potentially responsible party continues operating pumping equipment and a storage tank to maintain and control overflow. Sampling of the lift station water continues. In addition, soil and ground water samples were collected September 8, 2017. No sheen or odor was observed in the overflowing water.
 - San Jacinto Waste Pits Update: Cap repairs and underwater cap surveying continues at the San Jacinto Superfund Site. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling of sediment and surface water sample was completed on September 7, 2017.
- On September 5, 2017, EPA initiated sampling at NPL sites in Texas. EPA will sample all 34 Texas NPL sites to confirm no releases. Sampling will be completed by September 11 2017. Results will be delivered to the Region by September 14, 2017.



Legend

Federally Declared Counties in Texas

- No Designation
- A1B
- B

US EPA Region 6

FEMA - Texas Counties with Federal Disaster Declarations

Hurricane Harvey Response

Scale: 0 40 80 Miles

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

9/8/2017 FIELD ACTIVITIES

PHOTOS



Houston-EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) is talking with members of the public



Corpus Christi-EPA OSC is assessing cylinder for recovery